



Nebraska

Epidemiology

Nebraska Health and Human Services System
P.O. Box 95007
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TO: Nebraska Dermatology Specialists

FROM: Thomas J. Safranek, MD, Nebraska State Epidemiologist
Bryan F. Buss, DVM, MPH, CDC EIS Officer
Nebraska Health and Human Services System

RE: Reporting of Atypical *Mycobacterium* Furunculosis

Date: August 4, 2006

Dear Nebraska Dermatologist:

I am writing to request your assistance in our efforts to quantify the number of atypical *Mycobacterium* skin infection cases that have been diagnosed throughout the State of Nebraska. As you may be aware, human disease from nontuberculous mycobacteria is becoming more common. This can be associated with nail salon whirlpool footbaths leading to severe skin and soft-tissue infections and has been reported in multiple states throughout the country. These national concerns and the recent report of a similar condition in a Nebraska resident have prompted the need to determine the extent of this problem in our state.

For additional information on this important health issue, please refer to the following article:

Vugia DJ, Jang Y, Zizek C, Ely J, Winthrop KL, Desmond E. Mycobacteria in nail salon whirlpool footbaths, California. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2005 Apr;11(4):616-8.
Available on-line at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol11no04/04-0936.htm>.

If you have diagnosed one or more patients in the last 12 months with Mycobacterial (particularly *M. fortuitum*) skin infection of the lower legs following a pedicure procedure please contact Bryan Buss via e-mail or telephone to report them. Initially, we are only requesting that you report numbers of cases. If this reporting leads to concern with the number of cases, we will further our investigation and may follow-up to request individual patient information.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this request and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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